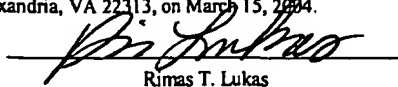


REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116—EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Docket No. ARC012003600

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "FIRST CLASS MAIL"

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313, on March 15, 2004.


Rimas T. Lukas

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Derrick A. RICHARDSON

Serial No.: 09/882,530

Filing Date: June 15, 2001

For: FILTRATION COLUMN DEVICES
AND METHODS OF FILTERING
THEREWITH

Examiner: Patrick T. LEWIS

Group Art Unit: 1623

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Examiner:

This paper is in response to the Final Office Action dated January 15, 2004. This reply is filed within two months of the mailing date of this Final Office Action. Applicants respectfully request an Advisory Action after consideration of this reply in advancing this case to allowance.